

County Parks and Recreation Board

Reorganizing Administration

4-6-88

The Wasatch County Parks and Recreation Board last week discussed proposed changes in administration policies and set some new goals.

The board requested Public Works Director Kent Berg to research the possibility of setting up

a non-profit, incorporated entity, separate from all other county functions. The proposal is to set up one bank account but with separate accounts within it for each activity, i.e. softball, soccer, swimming. Fees collected from participants would be put into the respective accounts and withdrawn as needed.

In the past, the director of each sport has collected the fees then paid for equipment and other expenses. The board doesn't suspect any mishandling of the funds, but questions have been raised about how the money has been spent and the information hasn't been readily available.

Members of the board agreed that accountability is important and that the proposed system would increase public confidence, especially because it would be audited annually.

The system could also save money. Rather than purchasing equipment piecemeal, the board hopes to be able to arrange discounts by making a commitment to buy everything from one firm.

A small percentage of fees would be set aside for "administration." That money would be used to more enthusiastically promote and develop the activities that are already

organized and add some new ones for very little cost. One possibility is a horse shoe pit near the Senior Citizens Center. This year, for the first time, volleyball is being added to the summer activities and the board hopes to be able to arrange for tennis lessons and a tennis tournament.

Several of the board members reported on communities that have the same economic problems as Wasatch County and have filled up their towns by holding regional and state tournaments, and sports clinics. They noted that the county has excellent sports facilities as well as being an ideal location for bicycle and running competitions, and that they should develop those possibilities.

They also felt they should be more active and supportive in the county-sponsored recreational programs than they have in the past. They are considering having each program assigned to a board member, primarily to be available to help resolve problems. Their increased involvement would also mean the board could be more effective and responsive to the needs of the people in the community.